

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Classification

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TODAY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 680, FEBRUARY 10, 6 PM.

NIACT.

SENT DEPARTMENT 680, REPEATED INFORMATION NIACT BONN 611.

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FROM BRUCE.

REFERENCE: SECTOS 14, 17 AND 24.

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SECRETARY REFERENCED TELEGRAMS CONCERNING SPECIFIC COURSE ACTION ENVISAGED CHECKPOINTS IF GDR OFFICIALS TAKE OVER INDICATE SUCH ACTION TO BE LIMITED TO ESTABLISHMENT IDENTIFICATION TRAIN, CONVOY, OR INDIVIDUAL VEHICLE, SO AS TO LEAVE NO REASONABLE DOUBT THAT UNIT ALLIED AND NOT GERMAN.

SUCH IDENTIFICATION MUST NECESSARILY BE ESTABLISHED IN ONE OF TWO WAYS, EITHER: (A) BY DRIVER OF VEHICLE OR TRAIN COMMANDER PRODUCING DOCUMENTATION WHICH WOULD BE READ BY GDR OFFICIAL AT CHECKPOINT, OR (B) BY TAKING MEASURES AHEAD OF TIME WHICH WILL MAKE CLEAR THE IDENTITY OF ALLIED UNITS BEYOND ALL REASONABLE DOUBT, AND THUS OBVIATE NEED PRODUCING ANY DOCUMENTATION WHATSOEVER.

AS DEPT AWARE, PROVISIONAL INSTRUCTIONS NOW IN EFFECT FOR MILITARY TRAINS, AND THOSE ENVISAGED FOR MILITARY VEHICLES AND CONVOYS PROVIDE THAT OFFICER IN CHARGE WILL MERELY "DECLARE TO EAST GERMAN OFFICIAL THAT THIS IS U.S. (BRITISH, FRENCH) MILITARY TRAIN (VEHICLE

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-2- 680, FEBRUARY 10, 6 PM., FROM BERLIN.

TRAIN (VEHICLE OR CONVOY) AND DEMAND TRANSIT THROUGH SOVIET ZONE AS MATTER OF RIGHT" (BONN'S 1307 AND 1717 TO DEPT DEC 18 AND FEB 6 RESPECTIVELY). INSTRUCTIONS EXCLUDE PRESENTATION OF ANY RPT ANY DOCUMENTS.

WE FEEL THAT THE ACT OF PRODUCING DOCUMENTATION, AS UNDER (A) ABOVE, RAISES A HOST OF PROBLEMS AND DANGERS, NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO WHAT DOCUMENTATION MIGHT BE SHOWN AND MANNER IN WHICH IT WOULD BE EXHIBITED, BUT ALSO HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN PRACTICE TO PREVENT GDR OFFICIALS FROM OBTAINING TEMPORARY POSSESSION OF SUCH DOCUMENTATION AND THUS HAVING OPPORTUNITY AFFIX DATE STAMP OR VISA OR INSISTING FURTHER CHECKS BEFORE RETURNING DOCUMENTS.

SINCE PURPOSE ESTABLISHMENT IDENTIFICATION LIMITED SOLELY IDENTIFY ORIGIN OF UNIT AS ALLIED AND THEREBY JUSTIFYING ITS CLAIM OF RIGHT TO PASS THROUGH CHECKPOINT WITHOUT SUBMITTING TO ANY CONTROL OR CHECK IN THE ABSENCE SOVIET PERSONNEL, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH IDENTIFICATION CAN AND SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY, AND CONFINED TO, THE PAINTING OR AFFIXING OF A PLAINLY LEGIBLE SIGN OF EACH ALLIED UNIT.

IF DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH ABOVE APPROACH, WE SUGGEST WE BE AUTHORIZED UNDERTAKE SOONEST DISCUSSION WITH U.S. MILITARY PRACTICAL ASPECTS PROBLEM ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION ALLIED UNITS ALONG ABOVE LINES, PRIOR TO TAKING MATTER UP WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH, AFTER U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN REACHED.

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